

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/740,697

Applicant(s)

CAMPBELL, PAUL

Examiner

Art Unit

Michael P. Ferguson

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 03 July 2006 appeal brief.2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14.3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.**Attachment(s)**1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-14 are allowed.

Examiner notes that claims 5-7,9,10 and 13, previously withdrawn from consideration, depend from allowable generic claim 1. Accordingly, claims 5-7,9,10 and 13 have been rejoined.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, Abbott (US 5,465,941) discloses the claimed retaining-locking system with the exception of comprising a retaining-locking strip having at least one securing protrusion; the securing protrusion having a base, a back surface, an upper surface, a lower surface and being disposed upon the outer surface of the strip; whereby, when the slat elements are interwoven into between consecutive links of a chain link fence with each of the notches aligned with one another, the retaining-locking strip inserted between the slat elements and the links, oriented orthogonally to the slats with the securing protrusion disposed within the slats, the strip will urge the slats toward the links, thereby retaining the slats within the chain link fence.

There is no teaching or suggestion, absent the applicant's own disclosure, for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the retaining-locking system as disclosed by Abbott to have the above mentioned elemental features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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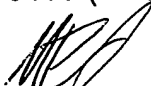
preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael P. Ferguson whose telephone number is (571)272-7081. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571)272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


MPF
09/20/06



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